

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT East German Agricultural Problems

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REQUIREMENT

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

1. An estimate of the eating potato requirements until the next harvest is 180,000 tons. [redacted] the large consumers, such as canteens, must surrender half their stocks of potatoes and adjust their menus so as to use only half the quantity originally planned. The canteens are to receive large quantities of farinaceous food such as macaroni, in return for the 50,000 tons of potatoes which this measure will yield. The increased cost to the canteens is not to be met by increased prices, but the Government will pay the bill of 28,000,000 DM.

2. A decision of the Council of Ministers [redacted] ordained that of the 450,000 tons still scheduled to be delivered by the farmers, 20,000 tons must be secured, and the remaining 430,000 tons which are not there should be quietly written off. By the same order, the farmers were required to produce 45,000 tons of the 220,000 tons which they were required to provide in payment for the seed potatoes which had been issued. A further 50,000 tons of eating potatoes are to be obtained in exchange (according to a decision of 12 January 1954) for 100,000 tons of briquettes. This supply of briquettes is to be obtained from cuts in the coal allocations to private households, to the State Secretariat for Purchase and Collection of Agricultural Products, to slaughterhouses, and to pig farms. This last item will have no bad effect, as the farms will, in the near future, have to slaughter their pigs for lack of feeding grain. [redacted]

[redacted] 20,000 tons of early potatoes are to be obtained. The total thus obtained on paper--155,000 tons--is 25,000 tons under estimated requirements.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X", Field Distribution by "#")

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3. The German Seed Company has at its disposal 530,000 tons of certified seed potatoes. The total requirement (on a basis of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons per hectare) is 2,500,000 tons, and, therefore, 2,000,000 tons should be held by farmers, state farms, and cooperatives if the spring sowing is to be carried out. The Bürgermeister in the Zone have received instructions to make every effort to procure as much as possible of the deficit of 450,000 tons of eating potatoes (cf. paragraph 2 above). Orders have been given for the inspection of farms and for confiscation. Not only the farmers, but also the local administrations, are resisting this order, since they are responsible for proper planting. Many Bürgermeister and Bezirksrat chairmen are saying that no potato is to be taken from the village of the Kreis before the requirement for seed potatoes is met.
4. Grains for fodder are hardly available. Imports from the Soviet Union have only been a fraction of what they should have been. During the first quarter of 1954, 80,000 tons of wheat, 65,000 tons of rye, 20,000 tons of barley and 15,000 tons of oats have been received from the USSR. Of these, the oats and barley have already been used, but 500,000 tons are required before the next harvest, as fodder. Most of the trade and industrial pig farms can have enough fodder until March 31. The Ministry of Agriculture is receiving constant inquiries as to what should happen after that time. The fattening contracts with individual farmers for 1,000,000 pigs are not included in these estimates of requirements.

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